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William Bower Taylor

Mr. Taylor was born in Philadelphia in 1821, and was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. He first practiced law in Philadelphia; was then an examiner and afterward librarian of the Patent Office. In 1878 he became connected with the Smithsonian Institution as editor of its publications. He was specially known as the editor of the scientific writings of Professor Joseph Henry; also by his work on Henry and the Telegraph. He was a well-known member of the Anthropological and Philosophical Societies of Washington. He died in Washington, February 25, 1895.

Mr. Taylor, although primarily a physicist, was widely informed on all the deeper topics of general science. His mind possessed a delicate sensibility to suggestion from others, and was influenced wholly by the inherent merit of the suggestion and not at all by the supposed competency or incompetency of the person making it. Still, on most questions he had settled convictions, and on nearly all important subjects he possessed original ideas, the result of prolonged independent thought. His conversation was particularly charming from the fact that it combined great learning and originality with the utmost simplicity and a complete absence of dogmatism. In a word, his entire character illustrated how extremely liberal genuine wisdom can afford to be.

LESTER F. WARD.
